

ARIZONA NEWS RELEASE

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Press Release Announcement – (April 10, 2006)
- For Immediate Release -

Arizona Citrus and Spring Potato Production

The April 1 citrus forecast of the 2005-06 crop by the Arizona Field Office shows mostly increased expectations of utilization when compared to the previous season. Arizona's 2005-06 lemon forecast, at 3.80 million boxes, is unchanged from the previous forecast but 58 percent above the previous season. Lemons are sizing smaller this season due to the heavier fruit set. Harvest is almost complete in Yuma and Maricopa County. Arizona's all orange utilization forecast, at 450,000 boxes, is unchanged from the previous forecast but 5 percent above the 2004-05 season. Nearly 20 percent of the Valencia crop has been harvested in Maricopa County. The Arizona tangerine forecast, at 550,000 boxes, is up 50,000 boxes from the previous forecast and 38 percent higher than last season. Harvest is complete in the Yuma area. Arizona's grapefruit forecast, at 100,000 boxes, is unchanged from the previous forecast but is 29 percent below last season's final utilization. The harvest is complete in Yuma and is continuing in Maricopa County.

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California's all orange forecast, at 53.0 million boxes, is unchanged from the March forecast but 17 percent below the revised 2004-05 utilization. Harvesting of navel oranges was active throughout March, although at a slower pace due to continued rainfall. Cooler March temperatures slowed fruit maturation which is helping to minimize fruit drop. The Valencia harvest began mid-month in the Central Valley but has slowed due to wet weather. Harvest continues in the southern citrus growing areas, as conditions allow. Fruit is generally of good to excellent quality, although some splits are beginning to appear.

The U.S. all orange forecast for the 2005-06 season is 8.96 million tons, virtually unchanged from the March 1 forecast but 3 percent below last season's revised final utilization.

Arizona's spring potato production is forecast at 1.10 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year. Growers report a 7 percent decrease in acreage for harvest but expect yield to be unchanged from last year.

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